

R.M.R. No. 2, Duncan, B.C.
July 15, 1938
PIONEER WOMEN OF COWICHAN DISTRICT

and

PIONEERS OF COWICHAN DISTRICT

by

JOHN NEWEL EVANS

COWICHAN PIONEER.

(1846 - 1944)

1938

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daughter, Mrs. Lilian Savage,
Duncan, B.C., October, 1965.

R. M. R. No. 2, Duncan, B.C.

July 15th 1938

W^m Lamb

Provincial Archivist

Dear Sir

I am sending you two papers
Pioneer Women of Cowichan, and Pioneer Men I don't know if
you already have papers upon same subject or not; mind
I have not consulted any Records or individuals; they are ~~real~~
Records made from memory so mistakes may be made, but am
pleased my memory is still good after 92 years, and our early
Records should be preserved, have you made any progress towards
getting field man or woman, to comb all our B.C. Districts for
early Records, could you not spare Mr. Coo once in a while if you
fail to get a regular employee, she would fill the Bill better than
any one I can think of she would know what you want in your
records, any aid I can give will gladly give, but mind it
must be with my pen has not been away from the house for
about two years, but in the best of health; so if you want to use
me in any way you must do it soon, and who ever goes out I
would say by Car, then if they heard of any one on by Roads they could
turn of and would be independent of Bus or Train. It would not
cost so very much, and the Government would be far richer in Records
you I know have a very great wealth of them yours Truly John R. Coo

Pioneer Women of Cowichan District

We will head our list with women who are the most outstanding. Mrs Neil Bell born in Scotland migrated to New Zealand previous to coming to British Columbia in 1862., Sometime ago I visited the graves of her and her husband in the Somenos grass yard; alas to late, the headstones were standing all right; but the names had all peeled off all was Blank Stone, Mrs Bell was a trained nurse and midwife before coming to British Columbia, and in the early days we had no resident Dr in the district or any nearer than Victoria so Mrs Bell was a God send to the District; - but our Pioneer women were a healthy sturdy lot of Men and women, I think a Dr would have starved to death if he had been stationed here, if he had to depend upon his practice for a living; - so if any one got very sick we called in Mrs Bell = then as people got more numerous and more women came in = and don't forget in the early days our Government imported brides by the ship loads, the first was the Robert Low; - some of that load came to Cowichan District, so Mrs Bells services were in more demand.

A most wonderful woman, full of energy and endurance, she would walk from Somenos to Chemainus Wharf and back and do her regular house work; and she would go to Mrs Chisholm at Maple Bay the same way, and don't forget our Roads were Mud Roads, sometimes of the year, for wien to walk on than gravel Roads, and at other times you would think your foot lifted a ton = at last when she had to take to her bed, she would not have a woman in the house, her youngest son Angus was the only one at home = but she needed for nothing I take of my hat to him, for giving that noble woman every care and attention; she who had spent all her life, aiding and ministering to the sick and ailing.

Mrs Archibald Keir was another of our noble Pioneer women

a fine sympathetic woman, she mothered the Batchlors of the District and sometimes they needed it badly, and many a one just-away from the old land and mother's influence, were kept on the straight Road, with her kind advice and sympathy, - and her door was always open and every one and all felt-at-home when they entered her door it was the rendezvous of all Batchlors on the North side of the River, the same a Bords on the South side, even before the Post-Office was established there, we were all indebted to her for many many kindnesses, and her home was also open to all dissenting Ministers to hold services therein long before any Church was built - And many of our Pioneers looking to make a location were fed at her table with a chance to rest his weary feet and given information to aid him on his way Certainly one of Nature's Noble Women

Next we would place the name of Mrs David Alexander Service of Oak Bank Luamichan, she also came by the way of New Zealand in 1862, Cowichan as all way been famed for it - But to Mrs Alexander should go the Credit of being one of its first Pioneers, - while Mrs Bell and Mrs Bedmell run her a very close race she usaly came out a head - while her home was not visited like the Heir home, you would allway receive a warm welcome when you called

And another of our Pioneer Woman I must not omit, a Woman Oh how shall I try to picture her to you, Mrs Manly who later became Mrs James Boal Cowichan Flatto a Noble Woman who overflowed with friendship and a great heart full of generosity, you could not offend her more if you refused to eat her food and she would produce it at all hours of the day, a woman who bestowed her friendships upon all, Oh what a

a fine lot of Pioneers, both men and women who came and made their homes in the Cowichan District, I feel it was a blessing when my footsteps were turned to make my home and to mingle, meet and share the toil of pioneers of the Cowichan Valley to have shared in their joys and sorrows for we have had both I greatly doubt if the world will ever produce their equal, they were the Cream of the lands who produced them, and they came from all lands. all have gone to their rest; they had a very hard strenuous life, the women of today cannot conceive what the pioneer women endured, think of your nearest neighbor three miles away nearest D^r in Victoria and only Steam Boat once a week or make the trip by canoe, she could not buy anything she needed to wear nearer than Victoria the general stores at the several steam boat landings stocked shirts overall and shoes for men but not for women.

We must not omit some mention of Elizabeth the only name I knew her by for many years, I later discovered her name was Elizabeth Blackmore, and we must make a record of her advent into the Cowichan District, in 1862 one of the earliest of our Pioneers, she was I don't know how to describe her, she was supposed to be a servant of D^r Davie the elder in Victoria, but she was far more than that; she was a mother to his motherless children, and no mother gave more care and attention to her children than Elizabeth did to the Davie family well her advent in Cowichan District was on foot over the old Look trail leading a cow, Young Alex Davie riding a pony, he later became Premier of British Columbia, also his younger Bro Theodor Davie, became Premier of B.C. and built

Our Parliament building which anchored Victoria as the Capital of B.C. Well they arrived safely in Somenos District, then her work began, she milked the Cows, Churned the Butter, fed the Calves and if you wanted to get on her soft side praise her Calves. No mother thought more of her Children than Elizabeth of her Calves after all her service and labor for the Davis family without any pay her last-days should have had a happier ending.

I could write reams about that Noble Band of the Pioneer Women of the Cowichan District, but will give you a list of names which come to my memory of the days of long ago. I think they are all gone home to rest after a hard life of it here, I will omit the names from the list of which I have given brief sketches of and will head the list with the name of Mrs. Mrs. Skinner of Fairly Maple Bay ~~probably~~ probably the earliest of all.

- Mrs John Morley	Maple Bay	Mrs Bednall	Maple Bay
- Mrs Hale	" "	Mrs John Platt	Maple Bay
- Mrs Edgson	" "	Mrs Beaumont	" "
- Mrs Brobank	Somenos	Mrs Rev Reese	Rectory
- Mrs Pat Brennan	^{Cowichan} Maple Bay	Mrs Shaw	Cowichan
Mrs Geo Lilly	Crofton	Mrs Manier	" "
Mrs James Bond	Cowichan	Mrs John Nelson	" "
Mrs Robert White	" "	Mrs Mat Bottrell	" "
Mrs Geo Adkinson Asker	Chemainus	Mrs Robert McLay	Kokasika
Mrs Chisholm	Maple Bay	Mrs Alex Blythe	" "
Mrs James Leask	" "	Mrs Randall	Maple Bay
Mrs Wm Drinkwater	Somenos	Mrs Ambrose Skinner	Somenos
Mrs Tait	" "	Mrs Richardson	Cowichan

Mrs John N Evans - Somenos = Mrs Harris - John Bull Leon Cowickan
 Mrs J Williams - Cowickan = Mrs Hollings - Cobble Hill
 Mrs Chapman - Cobble Hill = Mrs Wangan - Cobble Hill
 Mrs Bob Means - Kokasila Mrs Walter Ford, Kokasila
 Mrs Loda - Cowickan - Mrs Rutledge, Cowickan
 Mrs Murphy - Glenora - Mrs Waters - Glenora
 Mrs McKennally - Glenora - Mrs Rowe - Glenora
 Mrs Mollett - Glenora - Mrs Bowden Glenora.
 Mrs Maryman - Glenora - Mrs Harry Smith, Cobble Hill
 Mrs La Fortune - Mill Bay - Mrs W R Robertson, Cowickan
 Mrs Rogers - Rogers Lake - Mrs G. J Corfield - Cowickan
 Mrs Fred Maitland Wougal - Cowickan Mrs Dr Robottom, Quamichan
 Mrs Inger Duncan - Mrs Symonds - Maple Bay
 Mrs Crate Quamichan - Mrs Hy Fry - Chemainus
 Mrs Neil Campbell Westholme - Mrs Hall Westholme
 Mrs Frank Lloyd Westholme - Mrs James Habbard, Westholme
 Mrs Porter Chemainus - Mrs Fuller - Fuller's Lake
 Mrs James Evans Duncan - Mrs Monk - Quamichan
 Mrs J Menyes Quamichan - Mrs John Blair - Quamichan
 Mrs James Auchaniche Sathtam - Mrs Rev Dr Holmes - Duncan
 Mrs W. C Duncan - Duncan - Mrs David Ford - Glenora
 Mrs James Charley Somenos - Mrs Sam Gray - Chemainus
 The Currie family Sathtam, Miss Currie, Mrs Somerville, Mrs Golding
 Miss Mary Currie
 Mrs R May Somenos Mrs Wellbourn - Quamichan Lake
 Mrs Ashdown Green - Somenos Lake -
 Mrs Musgrave - Somenos Lake Mrs Martin Somenos
 Mrs Kingston Somenos Lake Mrs Barry Cobble Hill

Mrs Herbert Hall Westholme Mrs John Michell - Somenos
 Mrs Michell Smith Crofton Mrs J Shopland Maple Bay
 Mrs Summer Gibbon Road, Mrs Gremont Cowichan
 Mrs Young Cowichan Lake Rd; Mrs A Drummond - Maple Bay
 Miss Bidano Cowichan - Mrs Vinbury, Cowichan Flatts
 Mrs W. P. Jaynes Quamichan - Mrs Trapp - Cowichan Lake
 first white woman at the Lake
 Mrs Thomas Westholme Mrs Maxine Allard Quamichan
 Mrs Fletcher Herd Road Lake

Pioneers of Cowichan District

I have written of our Pioneer Women, but not of our men and will try to place on Record some of the names of those who Pioneered and cleared out homes for themselves and families from the Forests of Cowichan District, for what few little Prairie spots had been cleared by the Land grabber or Speculator before the advent of most of our Pioneers, who came with the Caniboo Gold Rush 1862, the first white man to settle in Cowichan was the late Jack Humphreys of Quamichan, I think I am correct that he came and located in 1857. and he was fulfilling Sir James Douglas's advice, go up into the Cowichan District, settle down and take an Indian Women, but my observation, that those who took his advice never progressed very far in the development of the District, but there were no other women available until later, When our Provincial Government imported Brides by the ship loads to supply the want the Robert Low was the first one, and some of them came to this District to found homes -

The second man to settle in Cowichan, was that Noble old Christian the Rev Father Rondault who labored many years amongst the Indians and Whites, he came in 1858, built his first House and Church of Logg. nearer the bridge than the Old stone Church, he and the Indians built the Stone Church in 1870, most of the stone was carried on hand barrows "not wheel barrows", two Indians carrying the rock, he and the Indians built the main portion of the Church, a Stone Mason from Victoria built the Arches of the Windows and Doors, and he as made a claim that he built the Church, My Brother Harry Evans did the finishing wood work the Rev Father kept quite a Herd of Cows which

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he milked and made Butter, indeed I fancy he told me that it was
Butter that paid for the first Lumber Church at the present site
I have during my life time have met a great many Divines of all
Sects, but he comes the nearest of all to what a Christian should be
I feel it was a very great privilege to have been his friend;

The great influx of Pioneers came to the Cowichan District in 1862
the year of the Cariboo Gold Rush, the Cowichan Pioneers did not take
part in the Gold Stampede, they came to settle on the land and build
homes for themselves, I don't think that any of the original Pioneers
of 1862 are now alive, I came to Victoria in 1864, went to California
1866 returned to Cowichan 1870, there are none left of the 1870 pioneers
in this District except myself, Many of our Pioneers came by the way
of New Zealand, but nearly all of British birth.

And I do not know what name should follow the names of Humphreys
and Rondault, perhaps the name of the Rev Archdeacon Rees he
was the first resident Church of England Minister, the Rev Garrett
had preceded him, but he lived in Victoria and came up the
trail very second Sunday - other Sundays he held service at the
Cedar Hill Church, Garrett held service in the old Log Church
on West side of Somers Lake and at the John Bull Inn Cowichan
Bay, I have never been able to find if the old Log building on
the lake was built for a Church or school it was serving as both
in 1870, Wm H. Lomas was holding school there in 1870 and
the school was a Church of England school, the children paid
so much in fees and the Church furnished the balance, that
was before the days of Public schools in Cowichan, Lomas also

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taught in the Old Mission Building, Llanichan at the same time
we divided the school Teacher up in three days he would have
two school to teach on alternate days one school would get 3
days one week then the next; Lomas later taught in public schools
in the same way. Cowichan Bench School and Kikasila on the
south side of the River, but to return to Archdeacon Rees he was
in the forefront of every movement for the benefit of the people, he was
the father of the Cowichan Agricultural Society, the thought came to
him during a harvest home service at St. Peter with its agricultural
display, our library and many other local endeavours, the District
is greatly in his debt he left and returned to England, now we
have the names, of Humphries, Rondault, and Rees and Lomas

I would next place the names of the Drinkwater Bros William
and Joseph, while you will find the name of William in our
public Records, he served in Municipal work for many years and
several times Reeve, yet I have very great doubt if he gave so
much service as Joe; William was slow and methodical he could
not be excited to wit one morning his wife discovered the house
was on fire, William was sitting under a cow milking he
thought he knew what was the matter he decided he was
going to finish the cow before he would go - in the mean time
some of our young fellow were coming home from a dance
chanced by and put it out; Now was slow in every way yet
when he took a stand on what he thought was right you could
not move him, In the early days the Council Chambers were
snowed yearly and sometimes snow often, then the question came

It up in the Council either to buy or lease a piece of Land
across the Road from the old Maple Bay School house William
was Rear and he refused to sign any lease, and by the next meeting
the Council found the taxpayers were behind him; No one ever called
upon Soc for help, but it would be forthcoming, one of my very dearest
of friends, One of Nature's Noblemen, Oh it was a great privilege to have
met such men as Soc Drinkwater to have a share in their friendships
their joys and sorrows to have been a Pioneer amongst the Noblest set
of men the world as ever produced the B.C. Pioneers so we will start
our list of Pioneers with the names mentioned, and we will have to
tax our memory to remember the names; Nearly all in fact are men
that none are alive who were here previous to 1840 W.C. Duncan
should also be to the front; after whom the City of Duncan is named
a fine public spirited man, and by the way a few words upon the
Duncan location, when first I saw it, he had a log Cabin down on
the East end of his location with about two acres cleared at least
chopped and burnt up, but the stumps were still there, and so
thick you could not drive a wagon with a Hay rack, through them
the East side of the Railway was a very heavily timbered with Maple
and Alder, and he named his home Alderlea which was the name
the City of Duncan first bore, on the West of the Railway was timbered
with a very heavy and very long growth of Pine, "second growth" have
never seen such growth elsewhere, you could not see the road on a
bright starlight night, W.C. Duncan took very great interest in
Public events, and was always present at logging and Building
Bees, at building Bees he was usually one of our corner men, ~~was~~

5 picked four of our very best axe men one for each corner of the building, to cut and fite the corner logs. He was so good an axeman he scarcely had any feet left all chopped up - now I hear the reader think if so good an axeman why his feet all chopped up - Mr Duncan came from Ontario where the chopping is mostly done in the winter when all timber is frozen and the axe off time glances from timber into the foot. When our Municipality was first formed we kept Duncan out of the Council so as to be available on the Roads, and by the way he should be given the credit of the formation of the North Cowichan Municipality. He had lived in a Municipality if memory serves me right Lambton and the cause of the formation was the Government in Victoria were administering all our Roads, and they used send a Road foreman and a gang of men, to work on our Roads in the summer when the Roads were good and passable, with the foreman name was Titus a head strong fellow who knew it all, and would not listen to the settlers who would point out the bad soft spots in winter, but ^{he} did the work were ever he saw fit and many of the settlers would have been glad of a few days work which they ^{did} not get. In those days I was living along side of Duncan and we had many a talk over the matter at last we decided to take around a petition asking that portion of Cowichan on the North side of the Cowichan River and including Chemainus be formed in a Municipality nearly every one signed hence the North Cowichan Municipality then we kept Duncan out of the Council as the Best available Road man and his services were
ever in demand

5 he was retained by the Council for Road work at (\$3.00) three dollars per day when at work, he was a good Road man as well as a good Axeman, our Road men in the early days were outstanding men for the work assigned to them, they could lay out and superintend the Road work for better than when later the Council decided to place an Engineer in charge, Mr Duncan was for very many years Church warden, at St. Peter's Inamichan was very active in the Cowichan Agricultural Society, the Library and other kindred societies, he was altogether an outstanding man who left his impress for good upon the District.

Mr H. Lomas was one of our earliest Pioneers, 1862; his first located on the west side of Lomenas Lake, "the old Log Church of Spainy was on his location" and he taught school therein, also taught in the old Mission Building as well, I think on alternate days the school's then were carried on by the Church of England they were the Pioneers in our schools in Cowichan District the children paid so much in fees and the Church the Balance, so the Church of England was for years of our Public School, "The first Public School was the old Maple Bay school and the first Public School Teacher was R M Clemiston, and Lomas the second he taught two public schools on the south side of the River also on alternate days, He later became the first Indian agent in the District and the most popular one with the Indians we have ever had."

to from all over British Columbia and some from Washington to pay
their last tribute of love and esteem for the man who had
given his life ^{and} for services to benefit and uplift them, the Road
from Duncan's to the Long Bridge was black with people mostly
Indians, but the white inhabitants were all out but were swamped
by the Indians

But to return to the Rev Archdeacon Reese he was in the
forefront of every movement for the benefit of the people, he was the
father of the Cowichan Agricultural Society, the thought came to
him during a harvest Thanksgiving service through the decoration
of the Church, with Reese to think was to act; hence our Agricultural
Society, he was also the one who started our Library we were
sometimes short of reading matter in early days no daily papers
in Country places - only one mail a week, and I greatly doubt
if we had daily mail we could have afforded to have paid
for daily papers, dollar were not plenty full amongst our Pioneers
so the formation of a library was a blessing, many a weary lonely
hour was lightened by a book from the Library and not being able
to pay a Librarian we met once a week on a certain evening
to exchange Books and have a social evening together and
we started a Debating Society, Rev Reese was generally chairman
of our meetings, so we were greatly benefited there by often we would
not see a person from our meeting night until we met again
our evening at home were often busy ones we were nearly all
Batchlors and had to do our cooking, Darning and often put
a patch on overalls or shirt, socks was generally Cariboo Sox

W.C. Duncan took a very great interest in public affairs, and was always present at our Logging and building bees, and when a settler had got enough of his chopped down and cut into log lengths so they could be hauled together he would call for a bee, to pile them up into piles to be burnt. "but he had first burnt up the Brush and small stuff" and if a settler wanted to build a Cabin, Barn or any other building, he would do like wise; then we would pick out the four very best axemen present and place them on the four corners of the building, the settler would have had his logs hauled near his building site so two Yoke of Oxen could keep the logs supplied as the corner men need them and the ground men would roll them up on skids as they were called for, Duncan was usually one of our corner men he was one of the best axemen who ever came to the District, good with either a chopping or a broad axe we kept him out of the Council when we first organized to have him available for Road work

9 William Fly Lomas was one of our earliest Pioneers. His first location was on the Westside of Somenos Lake. I think the old log Church was upon his location; and at the time he taught school therein, and also taught school in the old Mission building Quamichan, he was then paid for by the parents and the Church of England paid the balance. The Church of England were the Pioneers in the Schools of Cowichan District. He later became a Public School Teacher in two Public schools the Bench School, Cowichan, and the Kelvin Creek School Koksila. He taught them on alternate days one school would have two days school one week and then the next. He was the second school ^{Public} teacher in the District; the first was R. M. Clemiston who taught the first public school built in the District the old Maple Bay school at the junction of the Herds Road and the Lakes Road = "in those days the Herds Road was known as the Somenos Road." There is no doubt but he was the first school teacher in Cowichan; he finished up his life in a position he was so well qualified to fill, namely the first Indian Agent in the District also the most popular one with the Indians. As such the words of Lundy are fulfilled = what we record leaps to light his name will be shamed = he held the love and respect of the Indians "as no one else as done, except that worthy Old Christian the Rev Father Mondault = two men who stand head and shoulders above any other who have worked for the uplifting of the Indians = and speaking as a Pioneer I credit to their efforts that the white settlers were able to live in peace and harmony with them, and on the death of Lomas the Indian Village was filled with mourning and lamentation for their friend, for he certainly was their friend.

and his funeral they came from all parts of British Columbia for over a mile the Road was Black with Men and Women to pay their respects to one who through life had loved and had worked for them and who they loved in return, there were many a sad heart in that assemblage

But to return to the Rev Archdeacon Rees he was in the forefront of every movement for the benefit of the people; he was the father of the Cowichan Agricultural Society, the thought came to him during a harvest-thanks giving service at St Peter's Church through the decorations of the Church; with Rees to think was to act; hence our Agricultural Society, he was also the one who started the Library, we were sometimes very short of Reading matter in early days, No daily paper in Country places; only one mail a week; and I greatly doubt if we had daily mail; we could have afforded to have paid for a daily paper; Dollars were not plentiful amongst our Farmers, so the formation of a Library was a blessing; many a lonely hour was lightened by a Book from the Library; and not been able to pay a Librarian, we met once a week on a certain evening, to exchange Book and have a social evening together, and we started a debating Society, Rev Rees was generally Chairman of our meetings so we were greatly benefited thereby; often we would see no person from our meeting night until we met again, and our meeting place was the old Mission Building Quamichan. Our evening at home were often busy ones; we were nearly

all Batchlor's, and had to do our cooking Baking, and often put a patch on overalls or shirt, Sox's was generally Carbo Sox

Archibald Keir of Sonenoo was one of outstanding Pioneers if memory serves me right; he had crossed plains in the early days of California, three times previous to coming to British Columbia in 1862; a man of wonderful experiences, what a pity he had not left a record of them, he was one of the best read men I have ever met, He was the first appointed, post-master and Mail Carrier away from our several Bays, he came to Sonenoo in 1862; During one of our Dominion election; soon after Confederation, Sir Francis Hicks was defeated back East; he was a member of Sir John A. McDonald Cabinet; and Sir John appealed to B.C. to find a seat for Sir Francis all elections in those days were not held on the same day and British Columbia was one of the deferred ones it would take too long to tell of the work done to give him the seat, or of the wires that were pulled, however when the polls were closed Sir Francis was our member, and I never heard he ever put his foot inside the constituency during the whole time he represented it; But Mr. Keir became our Mail Carrier and Postmaster at Sonenoo the only thing we ever got; The Keir family have bulked largely in the District; the eldest of the sons who came to B.C. James Keir done much to help in the development, by bring in improved Machinery such as mowing Machines - Reapers Binders and improved machinery of all kinds which he hired out.

Neil Bell, a Scotchman who came to B.C. by the New Zealand

Route " Many of our early settlers came that way and quite a number returned there to their first love or choice in the early 50's, he settled with his family in Somenos, his wife was the most outstanding of our Pioneer Women, see Pioneer women of B.C. They had several sons and daughters but today the family is nearly extinct, and none residing in B.C., they built a nice home now in the hands of strangers

The Davis family home in Somenos ~~where~~ they located in 1852, Only Horace S Davis is the only one left he resides in Chumashus, I think the whole of the family considered Somenos as their home while a liv, the old Mr died years ago three of the sons who lived in Victoria have left their mark upon B.C., History Dr Jack Davis one of the out-standing Surgeon in Victoria, and Alex and Theodore became Premiers of B.C. and Theodore built our Parliament Building which has anchored Victoria as the Capital of British Columbia

Jim Kinear first located on the North side of Cowichan Bay on Mt. Topolan he had a Cabin there, while there was no land to justify a man to locate, a very pretty view and lots of fish at his door, he later moved to Cowichan Landing, Jim should have made his mark in the Country he was a well educated a great book worm all together a good companion perhaps it was the last was the cause of his down fall when the Library was first started Jim read more book than any other of our members, most of our members had settled on the land and after a hard days work would feel more like sitting the Blanches

11 than reading - but I really think we read more books in those days than we do today, one thing we did not have daily mail or daily or daily papers in the country places, we only had weekly mail and weekly steam boats, and our two Victoria newspapers publish weekly edition to meet the needs of Country readers - the Victoria Colonist - "the oldest Newspaper in B.C." and the old Victoria Standard which later became the Victoria Times, but we are getting away from Pioneers - when we discuss Newspapers

The Alexander family of Oak Bank Quamichan came from down under in 1862, David Alexander Sen was born in Scotland and moved to New Zealand before coming to B.C. many of our Pioneers came that way; and many in the 60's returned to New Zealand, David in his younger days was a fine upstanding man carried himself very straight and had fine square shoulders and of great strength he would carry two Deer from Mt. Prospect instead of making an extra trip, he cleared out a fine farm out of the Forest one of the most productive ones in the whole District, and Mr. Alexander was one of the Buttermakers that put Cowichan on the Map many of their descendants still live in the District, most of our real pioneers came here in 1862 I came to Victoria first in 1864 - went to the California Gold mines in 1866 - Returned to Cowichan District in 1870, there was then only one wagon and one team of Horses then in the District and they had come by the overland Route from Ohio U.S.A. brought by the Drinkwater Brothers of Sonoma, all the rest were Oxen, and Alexander's of Oak Bank, held to the Oxen longer than any other settler Oxen and sled, he considered Cheaper and more adapted to our needs than Horses; well under the then existing condition they likely were, consider our Roads were Mud Roads, and in very many spots the wheels would go down

12, to the axel and the horses to their knee's, and with much traffic they would soon be stuck there

We must not omit the name of Samuel Bednall who was located on the New Elfrington place on the Maple Bay Road perhaps one of our most energetic of our settlers, he was English; very active and developed a fine farm and home, was the first to ship Timothy Hay to Victoria, Native Tide water Grass had been cut on the Cowichan Flatt and Baled and shipped to Victoria some years previous, I had hauled it from the Schooner to some old log Barn's on the Fairfield Road which was then controlled by Judge Pemberton, it was sold principally to dairy men, speaking of Bednall bring to memory my old friend Fly Bonsall who was a stepson of Bednall, then later went on his own, on the farm Mr. Burns now owns, then he got married and moved up to Westholme, he was the first to establish a Herd of Pure Bred Holstein Cattle, the first pure Bred Herd in the District; there may have been a few individual animals eligible for registration but no herd, I believe the old jersey Elizabeth led from Victoria was one, and you will find more pure Bred Cattle in the Cowichan District than anywhere else in B.C., in early days it was difficult to register, any way Fly Bonsall made a name for himself and a Record for the District

William Beaumont of Maple Bay came to Victoria in 1862 and started in the Express business, Now don't run away and think he owned a horse or an express wagon, he

Conducted his express business with a push cart, and he made more than a living at it; saved enough to come to Maple Bay, and buy out Tom Windsor his Hotel and store, but neither were very much, it was were the Maple Bay in now stands and by the way there was also a wharf. He had a small country store, but the stock of our Bay stores were limited, and Capital of the store keepers was also very limited, and the capital of the store patrons more so, Beaumont made enough and saved enough to retire and live near the Willows in Victoria.

Matthew Bottrell was in the Bulcher Business in Victoria, he bought out the Lowland farm Cowichan Bay, from its original owner John Companion, Bottrell sent up his younger Bro Tom to run the farm, poor Tom got drowned in the River trying to take an animal across the River on a rope; he got tangled up with the rope and was drowned, those were the days we had no Bridges across Rivers or Creeks, had to wade through, and sometimes we would have to wait for the tide to ebb to do so, you may be able to get an Indian to put you over in his Canoe, but then you would have to pay him, and silver coin was not plentyfull with the Settlers, so we striped of our clothes rolled them in a bundle on your head and waded in, Resident of the present day cannot begin to picture, what the Pioneer's had to face, if you Flour Barrel it meant you would walk eight or nine miles to the Store and pack a sack of Flour home on your shoulder, or you would take your Oxen and sled for it; and that meant more time, and perhaps time was more valuable then than now; so much waiting

to be done, there are some names we must mention we could not pass up Hugh Drummond of Maple Bay, the Pioneer list would not be complete with his name omitted, a Scotchman by birth if there ever was one, at any Public gathering Hugh would be present and at the steam Boat-landing whenever a boat came in, living close to Maple Bay, he could hear the Whistle and would be there to meet her, he seldom failed, he spent very considerable time meeting the Steamers, did not do much land clearing, but was one of the first to raise sheep, most of our settlers were shy to tackle sheep on account of Wolves and Panthers, both very numerous in the early days, especially Wolves, you would hear them howl around your Cabin during the night; not a very pleasant sound to go to sleep with; we gathered in our pigs, sheep, and calves, and placed them in the Barn during the night.

In the above list not a word about Thomas Skinner of Fairly Maple Bay; who was one of our very earliest settlers, an old Hudson Bay employee, before coming to the District; I believe previously he had been in charge of Craig House, and many spots still bear his or some of his family's names around Victoria, such a Constance Cove, name after one of his daughters, the family left its impression upon the District. The Pembury Brothers I don't know that we may class them as Pioneers of the District of which they later became Residents of the Lowland farm Cowichan Bay. In 1864 they resided at twin Oak Cedar Hill then went to Sattspring Island and went extensively into sheep raising they sold out to Mr Musgrave and moved to the Lowland farm.

15- Cowichan Flatts, I believe that form as changed ~~several~~
ownership oftener than any other in the District

The Flatts Brothers (2) Jim came first and if memory serves
me right located on the present dump place at Maple Bay
for many years he was a bachelor, but he fell for the wife of a
Widow- Mr Morley, who had led so many men to the Altar to
console her for the loss of previous husbands, I think the record was
right, they later sold and lived in Duncan

John Flatt the other Brother lived with Mrs Peter Flatt
lives, he had also been an old Hudson Bay employee, he took
some interest in Public affairs, you will find his name amongst
the Councillors of Comoxackten Ward

John Morley name bulks largely in the early history of the
Cowichan District; he was a J.P. and acted for some time as
Government Agent; while there were many more J.P. in the District
he took most of the justice work, many of our J.P. shirked the work
they wanted the honor but not the work; he had a nephew
H. A. S. Morley who was the first Municipal Clerk in Cowichan
he later entered the Government service in Victoria in which he
served for many years, William Chisholm and John Mahony
two Irishmen who located, Mahony at Genoa Bay Chisholm on
Maple Bay, two very close friends were you would meet one you
may be sure the other was not far away - we had had two such
examples of that friendship in the district; Bill Brigg and
Jim Miller, they were not parted even in death, Brigg and
Miller were murdered by Indians together in both cases they were

15 Irishmen and both exemplified the friendship of Damon for
Pythias, so the old world is not all together selfish, we still have
friendships running through the Ages; while many claim we
are going backward, at no time in the World History, can we
point to any period, were such provision, were made that
are today; for the Widow's and orphans; the sick and the maimed
to our Hospitals, to our Homes; all over the Country, Ministering
to the needy; Then the name of Jim Leask who settled on
the Milton Edgson place at Maple Bay he left soon after I came
as I know but little of him but his name should be amongst
the Pioneers, his successor Milton Edgson, work with him when
we both worked for that fine old Pioneer Harry King on the
Church Farm Cedar Hill in 1864, Milton was a remittance
man used to get very considerable money from home every month
quite a number of our Pioneers were remittance men some it
aided, but to the majority it was a curse, they lived in the
Barroom as long as the money held out; when it was gone
they got kicked out.

My old friend John Carr Smith who located on what is
now the Cliff property, he came from Ontario, he had left
his wife and daughter, they had some disagreement so he
left and came to B.C. at one time I had considerable correspondence
with them in an effort to bring them together; while possible
there may have been fault on both sides, I think my old
friend was most to blame.

John French located near Maple Bay, were the Constantines

now-live was another of our old Pioneers a Bachelor and quite a Chum of Hugh Drummond who's locations were adjoining a man of rather quick temper and some time's this stick would be flying around his head but never heard it came down on anyone's head.

Geo. Lilly Sen - was located near Osbourne Bay now Crofton a typical English man he had a family one became prominent in Business in Victoria. Lilly Candy was

James Evans was Born in Berriew, Montgomeryshire North Wales on a farm, when a young man he went to Liverpool and for a time served on the police force then when the Cariboo Gold discovery reached the old Country in 1862 he and his younger Bro David decided they would come out to B.C., and try their luck they came by the English Route from Southampton to St. Thomas, hence to Panama and up the Coast to San Francisco, and Victoria and on the way to Cariboo, all went well untill they got to Yale when they had to shoulder their packs of Blankets and food and strike the Trail for Cariboo, they had not proceeded far when they met so many disappointed ones returning they decided to stop on the way and help to build that wonderful Road; the Cariboo Road, they returned to Victoria for the winter, they all returned to Victoria for the winter in the 1866. He returned to work on the Road in 1863 - in 1864 he went through to Cariboo but made nothing in 1865 he went down to California and went up into

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